**Strengthening of Public Distribution System**

1323. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the financial and other assistance being given to the States to strengthen the Public Distribution System so as to bring more items of essential commodities under its fold?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): At present, the Central Government has assumed responsibility for procurement of seven key essential commodities viz., wheat, rice, levy sugar, imported edible oils, soft coke, kerosene and controlled cloth. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to increase the number of commodities which are being procured and supplied by it. However, States/U.Ts. are free to include in their Public Distribution System other commodities for which they will have to make their own arrangements for procurement and distribution. The Central Government is not giving any financial assistance specifically for this purpose. However, the Central Government gives assistance to States/UTs. to strengthen the existing Public Distribution System. The Schemes under which financial assistance is given to various States/U.Ts. are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below) Financial assistance is also provided for development and rehabilitation of consumer cooperatives in the country.

**Statement**

*Schemes under which Central Assistance is given to States/UTs for strengthening Public Distribution Systems*

1. Assistance to States/UTs in the North-Eastern Region and the States/UTs of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for setting up Civil Supplies Corporations and construction of godowns.

2. Assistance to States for purchase of vans to be operated as mobile fair price shops.

3. Assistance to States/UTs in the North-Eastern Region for supply of iodised salt and levy sugar in small packs.

4. Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme for development of Consumer Cooperatives in urban areas, financial assistance is provided for opening new retail outlets (including department stores and mobile vans) setting up of Consumer Industries, strengthening the State Consumer Cooperative Federations and for rehabilitation of weak/sick wholesale consumer cooperatives stores (as also State Cooperative Federations in Eastern and North Eastern States).

5. For distribution of consumer goods by primary agricultural credit societies and LAMPS in the rural areas, the Central Government is implementing a Scheme through the National Cooperative Development Corporation for providing margin money assistance to such cooperatives, to enable them to undertake distribution of consumer articles in rural areas.

**Share of Central and State Governments on IRDP**

1324. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government bear a part of the expenses incurred on the Integrated Rural Development Programme and the rest is borne by the States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Governments have to spend their own share and only then they can use the Centre's contribution; and